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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,239	03/25/2005	Kang Mo Choi	9988.219.00	2549
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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			EXAMINER REESE, DAVID C	
			ART UNIT 3677	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/28/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/529,239	Applicant(s) CHOI ET AL.	
	Examiner David C. Reese	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 31-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

THIS FINAL ACTION IS RESPONSIVE TO THE AMENDMENT FILED 6/6/2007.

- Claims 1, 21-24, and 29-30 were amended.
- Claims 31-35 are withdrawn (see below).
- Claims 1-35 are pending.
- Replacement Drawings were filed for entry.

Election/Restrictions

[1] This application contains claim 31-35 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in Paper No. 12/6/2006. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Drawings

[2] The drawing(s) were previously objected for informalities. In view of Applicant's replacement drawing(s) submitted on 6/6/2007, all previous objection(s) to the drawings have been withdrawn. Accordingly, the replacement drawings have been entered.

Claim Objections

[3] Claim(s) 21 and 26-30 were previously objected to because of informalities. Applicant has successfully addressed these issues in the amendment filed on 6/6/2007. Accordingly, the objection(s) to the claim(s) 21 and 26-30 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

[4] The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

[5] Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 11, 13-14, 22-25, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 was amended to read: "having at least

Art Unit: 3677

two sides over which a tool or finger for rotating the hub about the leg bolt". From the drawings and written disclosure, however, the only side that is described of having that purpose is 125. That is, 125 provides structure for rotating the hub about the leg bolt. It is unclear to the examiner how an additional side of the rib (and which exact side) in the instant case provides structure by which a tool or finger is used for rotating the hub about the leg bolt.

Further, in line 6 of claim 1, it is stated, "the side"; such terminology lacks proper antecedent basis. In view of the amendment to the claim of "at least two sides" which side is "the side" in line 6 referring to?

With regard to claims 3-4, the same question as above can be applied, which side, if applicable is "the side" referring to in light of the current amendment to independent claim 1?

With regard to claims 5-6, it is stated that "at least one of both sides". Claim 1, however, only states that there is at least two sides, not necessarily that there is that of "both sides".

Thus, in view of the above examples, proper definiteness with regard to the usage of the various derivations of "side" is needed with regard to the remaining claims.

Double Patenting

[6] Applicant has addressed all double patenting rejections to the Claims in the amendment filed 6/6/2007. Accordingly, the Examiner has withdrawn the double patenting rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[7] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3677

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

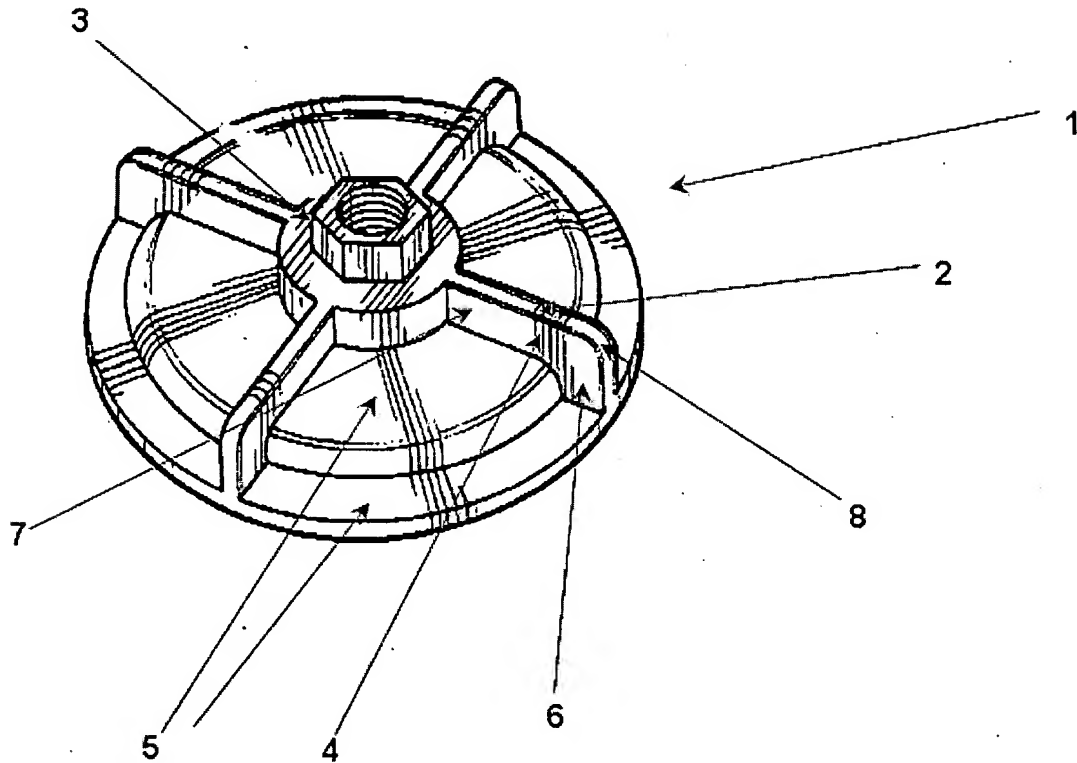
[8] Claims 1-21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as clearly anticipated by Nelson, US-D427,053, because the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or in public use or on sale in this country more than one (1) year prior to the application for patent in the United States.

The shape and appearance of Nelson is identical in all material respects to that of the claimed design, *Hupp v. Siroflex of America Inc.*, 122 F.3d 1456, 43 USPQ2d 1887 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

As for Claim 1, Nelson discloses of a lock nut (1) (see figure below) [for a leg assembly of electric home appliances], comprising:

a plurality of ribs (2) extending in a radius direction from a circumference of a hub (3), and having at least two sides (4 and 2) over which [a tool or finger for rotating the hub about the leg bolt]; and a supplementary member (5) provided [allowing the wrench or finger to access from the radius direction of the hub (3) to the side (4)], and coupling the ribs (2);

wherein the two sides (4 and 2) are non-symmetrical.



The above statement in brackets is an example of intended use, with the prior art only needing to be capable of performing said function to be anticipatory towards that of the prior art, and in the instant case, the lock nut as presented by Nelson is indeed capable of being used for a leg assembly of electric home appliances, as well as having a tool or finger access said nut (at the locations as claimed above) for rotating the hub. Note that it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Re: Claim 2, wherein the height of the rib (2) is same as or lower than that of the hub (3), and the height of the supplementary member (5) is lower than that of the rib (2).

Re: Claim 3, wherein the side (4) is perpendicular to a horizontal plane.

Re: Claim 4, wherein the side (4) is inclined to a perpendicular line.

Re: Claim 5, wherein at least one of both sides of the rib (2) gets larger (6 compared with 7) from the hub (3) toward an end to the rib (2).

Re: Claim 6, wherein an end portion and both sides of the rib (2) are geared to the [tool when the tool accessed from the radius direction of the hub (3)].

Re: Claim 7, wherein the supplementary member (5) comprises an extension member (5) extended from a circumference of the hub (3) to a space between the ribs (2).

Re: Claim 8, wherein the side (4) is inclined to a perpendicular line.

Re: Claim 9, where a first side of both sides of the rib (2) is inclined so as to be gradually thickened (6 compared with 7) from an upper part of the rib (2) to the extension member (5), and a second side (adjacent 4, the other side) thereof is inclined such that it get thicker from a lower part of the rib (6 compared with 7) to the extension member (5).

Re: Claim 10, wherein the extension member (5) is extended from a center of a height direction of the hub (3), and has a lower height than the rib (2).

Re: Claim 11, wherein the extension member (5) is inclined [such that the tool or finger accessed from the radius direction of the hub (3) easily touches the side].

Re: Claim 12, wherein the extension member (5) is inclined such that a first end (inner 5) of thereof of being coupled with the hub (3) is higher than a second end (outer 5) thereof being adjacent to the end portion of the rib (2).

Art Unit: 3677

Re: Claim 13, wherein the incline direction of two extensions (5) located at both sides (4, and adjacent 4, the other side) of the rib (2) is different from each other.

Re: Claim 14, wherein an end portion of the extension (5) is provided to be adjacent to a lower part or upper part of the end portion of the rib (2) such that a single exposed area of a portion being adjacent to the end portion of the rib on the sides becomes larger (see outer 5 compared with inner 5).

Re: Claim 15, wherein a center portion of the end portion of the extension member (outer 5) is curved toward the hub (3).

Re: Claim 16, wherein an end portion of the rib (2) forms a corner of the lock nut (1).

Re: Claim 17, wherein an end portion of the rib (2) is rounded (8).

Re: Claim 18, wherein the supplementary member (5) comprises a rim (outer 5) for coupling the end portion of the ribs (2).

Re: Claim 19, wherein the rim (outer 5) is lower than the rib (2) and coupled with an upper or lower part of the rib (2).

Re: Claim 20, wherein the rim (outer 5) is provided to be perpendicular to a horizontal plane.

Re: Claim 21, wherein one (outer 5) of two rims (inner and outer 5) located both sides of the end portion of the rib (2) is coupled with an upper part of the rib (2), and the other rim (inner 5) is coupled with a lower part thereof.

Re: Claim 23, wherein the side (4) is perpendicular to a horizontal plane.

Re: Claim 24, wherein the side (4) is inclined to a perpendicular line.

Re: Claim 25, where a first side of both sides of the rib (2) is inclined such that it gets thicker (6 compared with 7) from an upper part of the rib (2) to the extension member (5), and a second side (adjacent 4, the other side) thereof is inclined such that it get thicker from a lower part of the rib (6 compared with 7) to the extension member (5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[9] The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

[10] Claims 22 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson, US-D427,053, in view of Johnson, US-3,868,079.

Although the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth 35 U.S.C. 102, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a designer having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains, the invention is not patentable.

As for Claim 22, Nelson teaches of a lock nut for a leg assembly, comprising:

a hub (3) having a screw hole through which a leg bolt passes, the leg bolt coupled with an electric home appliance;

a plurality of ribs (2) extended in a radius direction from a circumference of the hub (3), and having a at least two sides (4 and 2) over which a tool or a finger accessed from the radius direction of the hub (3) is hooked so as to rotate the hub about the leg bolt~

an extension member (5) extended from a circumference of the hub (3) to a space between the ribs (2); and

a rim (outer 5) for coupling end portion of the ribs (2),
wherein the two sides (4 and 2) are non-symmetrical.

The difference between the claim and Nelson is that Nelson does not expressly state that the locking nut is used in conjunction with a leg bolt coupled with an electric home appliance. First, it is extremely obvious and apparent to one skilled in the art of fasteners of the diverse functionality of locking nuts. The use of locking nuts for a variety of applications including that of with home appliances is widely held and understood to those in the art. To show the use of a nut in conjunction with a leg bolt coupled with an electric home appliance the examiner submits the reference of Johnson. Johnson discloses a threaded locking nut attached to a leg bolt of a home appliance, specifically a washing machine. Thus, it would have obvious to one skilled in the art to have used the locking nut as provided by Nelson with numerous applications, one of which being integral with a leg bolt coupled with a home appliance as shown by Johnson. One would want such a configuration so as to help deter inadvertent removal of the leg bolt and support the leg bolt during various movements while being attached to the washing machine assembly.

Re: Claim 26, Nelson discloses wherein the extension member (5) is inclined such that a first end (inner 5) of thereof of being coupled with the hub (3) is higher than a second end (outer 5) thereof being adjacent to the end portion of the rib (2).

Re: Claim 27, Nelson discloses wherein the incline direction of two extensions (5) located at both sides (4, and adjacent 4, the other side) of the rib (2) is different from each other.

Re: Claim 28, Nelson discloses wherein the rim (outer 5) is perpendicularly extended from the end of the extension member (inner 5) to an upper part or lower part of the rim (2).

Re: Claim 29, Nelson discloses wherein one (outer 5) of two rims (inner and outer 5) located both sides of the end portion of the rib (2) is coupled with the upper part of the rib (2), and the other rim (inner 5) is coupled with the lower part thereof.

Re: Claim 30, Nelson discloses wherein the coupling portion of the rib (2), the extension member (5), and the rim (outer 5) is rounded (8).

Response to Arguments

[11] Applicant's arguments filed 6/6/2007 regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the instant case, insofar as the examiner could examine the case with the pending 112 rejections, the examiner maintains that the prior art of Nelson still reads onto the current, amended listing of claims as shown and disclosed above. The applicant amended the independent claims by incorporating the limitation of at least two sides, with both sides being non-symmetrical to one another. In response, the examiner maintains that 2 as shown above in the accompanying figure can be considered "a side" separate than that of 4, and that 2 is also non-symmetrical with respect to 4. Thus, the examiner maintains that the prior art of Nelson still reads onto said claims.

Art Unit: 3677

Conclusion

[12] Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

[13] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

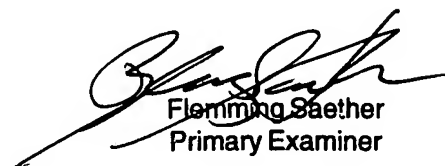
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached at (571) 272-7075. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DCR



David Reese
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 3677



Flemming Saether
Primary Examiner